Gary Richard Schoener
4033 Dupont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

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Dear Harold,

Sorry to hear about your continuing medical problems. I hope that things do get sorted out. We've had friends struggling with the same issues.

As for Ed Williams, he did phone and we finally connected, and I did agree to write you. After lengthy discussions, of which I'm sure you already can guess the content, he continued with endless conspiracy theories. Any attempt to discuss one simply led him to change the topic, and I had to yell at him to get his attention. What I ended up doing was this:

1. agreeing that his theories, no matter how improbable, could be true...that I had no way to challenge them;

2. Noting that I, like you, had every right to have our own beliefs and theories...and that he had the right to his;

3. But, that he did not have the right to insist that we either believe or listen to his theories and charges...

   a. that he had no more likelihood of convincing either of us than we apparently did of convincing him

   b. that such arguments were distasteful

   c. that his constant insistence, pressure, and verbal press was incredibly annoying

In conclusion, I told him that I wasn't in a position to decide whether he was sane or not, and in any event if he denied that he needed help there was little I could do about it and a referral would make no difference. However, if he expects to be on any sort of reasonable terms with Harold Weisberg or anyone else on the planet he'd better:

1. respect their boundaries and views

2. cut out the harrassing arguments

I noted that it would be better for him to discuss things other than the case, conspiracies, etc. That true friends don't harrass each other.

I too felt sad. He's a decent fellow, but impossible to deal with. Furthermore, he's got little interest in getting help and would be impossible to work with. What a waste!

As for our family, we've been struggling with a number of things. On the positive side, the bindery at long last has our monster of a book--all 852 pages of it (8 1/2 X 11" format)! We've gotten a good price of $ 9.75/copy for library binding with the best materials and with oversewing. (once we go to commercial printing we can do Smythe sewing).

My wife Katherine, who's Director of Marketing for a large HMO, has had her job get worse and worse. She's been working 80 hour weeks and been taking a lot of grief from some of the new young vice presidents. Now they are going to cut her staff, so the work will only get worse. So, she ended up in a confrontation and now is either leaving or being forced out or both. So, we're trying to negociate some type of reasonable severance. Without her income we can't make it very long.. (We've refinanced our house and within several years could make it on one income...but weren't ready yet for this.)

This Spring, out of the blue, an endocrinologist raised a question as to whether Alex had a Prader-Willi syndrome. We had gone in to see him because Alex has bi-lateral undescended testicles. Since he's a bit porky, the doctors couldn't feel them, so they needed to test if they were there. The endocrinologist injects a hormone to stimulate them, and if then there is measureable testosterone output, you can be sure they're there.

Well, suddenly Prader-Willi was suggested: it has three symptoms. Poor muscle tone of unknown origin, lack of control of eating, undescended testicles. At age 1 year Alex had gained a lot of weight, and that's what brought it up. Well, after genetic testing and other things, we learned that you really can't tell for sure until he's age 4,5, or 6. He's not got the genetic sign, but neither do half of the kids who have it. So, we've got to wait and see. If he has it the outcome will be grim--expectations are for a bad disposition, constant hunger, and the need to put him in a group home where the kitchen can be locked up. He will end up with a low IQ--possibly around 70! So, it's a parent's nightmare--especially parents in their 40's where the child is destined to outlive you by many years. So, keep your fingers crossed. That's all that we can do.

The waiting is terrible, but we've refocused our energies on day to day things. He's now walking, although since he weighs 40 lbs. he's a bit wobbly. He wears clothes of a 5 year old and outweighs some 4 year olds. He's stilla wonderful, smiley little boy who's a real joy. We've switched from physical therapy to evaluations for speech & language therapies. The PT thinks he'll make it on his own, but he's behind intellectually. Fortunately, the school system here has great services, so we're also pretty much switching from hospital-based services to those offered by the schools.

Maybe 4 years from now we'll look back and sigh a sigh of relief. I sure hope so. For now it's a nail-biter.

On another topic, with our book out I'm hoping to have some more chances to get out and speak or give expert testimony, so I expect I'll have a chance to visit you and Lil sometime in the year ahead. I've made it on some TV interview shows and may well be on others...as I've told people--we don't have an advertising/marketing budget for the book--I'm it!

Give my best to Lil.

Guy